



BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS / SPECIAL SERVICES

District Administrative Office

540 Farview Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 07652-2915 • Tel. (201) 343-6000 ext. 4069 • Fax (201) 996-7249 • email: howler@bergen.org

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

COVID Educational Update 4/17/20 - BCSS

Dear Administration, Staff, and Parents/Guardians,

Once again, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. I also hope you enjoyed the recent holidays, and were able to use the school recess for rest, reflection and rejuvenation. This difficult time continues to impact all of us in devastating ways most of us have no experience with. We need to lean on each other, and be there for others to lean on, in order to thrive and not just “survive” while we are under the cloud of this terrible illness. To anyone who has lost a loved one, or who is worried about a loved one who is ill, please know the hearts of your “district family” are with you now, especially.

Here is the latest update:

1. Governor Murphy announced at his April 16, 2020 COVID-19 briefing, that all schools in New Jersey will remain closed, and operate remotely, through at least May 15, 2020. He stated he and his team are monitoring all data about the spread of COVID-19, and will make another decision about school reopening as May 15th draws near based on how the situation looks then.

a. Knowing that this "remote operation" model will continue for at least another four weeks, our administrators, teachers, specialists and staff will work together to build on the instructional content our educators initially prepared when we “went remote”. As I have said before, though, knowing what we have seen from them (as well as our students and families at home) over the last four weeks, I have absolute confidence we will master this challenge for the next four weeks, and as long after that as we may be asked.

b. The Governor and the NJ Commissioner of Education have asked before that school districts not speculate about school reopening dates unless and until the Governor specifically communicates that information. We will continue to honor this request going forward.

2. I want you all to know that we have been thinking about the possibility that school closure may impact student end-of-year celebrations. Our students have already been



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disrupted, and deprived of a great deal that our daily programs of in-person school attendance provides them beyond their academic instruction. If we are fortunate enough to have our schools reopen before the end of the school year, we will do our best to resume normal operations and activities, including our traditional end-of-year ceremonies. On the chance our schools do not reopen before the end of June, we will recognize and honor our students. Central and building administration will brainstorm various options that will let us acknowledge student achievement and commencement, and give our students experiences that they can reflect back on in future years.

As repetitive as this may sound, please continue to follow all the CDC guidelines, which can be found on our website at Bergen.org. Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.

Superintendent